our fourfooted friends

Fall 1984

ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE OF BOSTON

ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE OF BOSTON

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World Society for the Protection of Animals
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ON THE COVER:
Elizabeth Heath with Mocha Chip, winner of Best of Show at League's Annual Pet Show *(see photos p. 8-9)*

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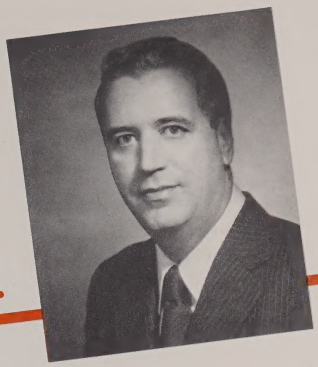
A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT . . .



A SHOT IN THE DARK

Whether it is a shot in the dark or one in daylight, it hardly seems that gunshots are an appropriate means of reducing the overpopulation of deer at the Crane Reservation on the North Shore.

I draw your attention to an article on page six by Stephen Wachman about the plight of the White-tailed deer on the Crane Reservation.

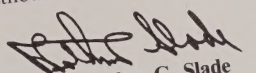
Clearly, we do not know at this writing the results and conclusions of the study being conducted by Dr. Moen of Cornell, but if his findings document severe overpopulation resulting in overcrowding, insufficient food supply, destruction of the deer's habitat, disease and starvation, it is apparent that some corrective measures should be taken.

Of the possible "Management Options" listed in Mr. Wachman's article, "Doing Nothing" or "Hunting" strike me as making the least sense for an effective and humane resolution of the problem.

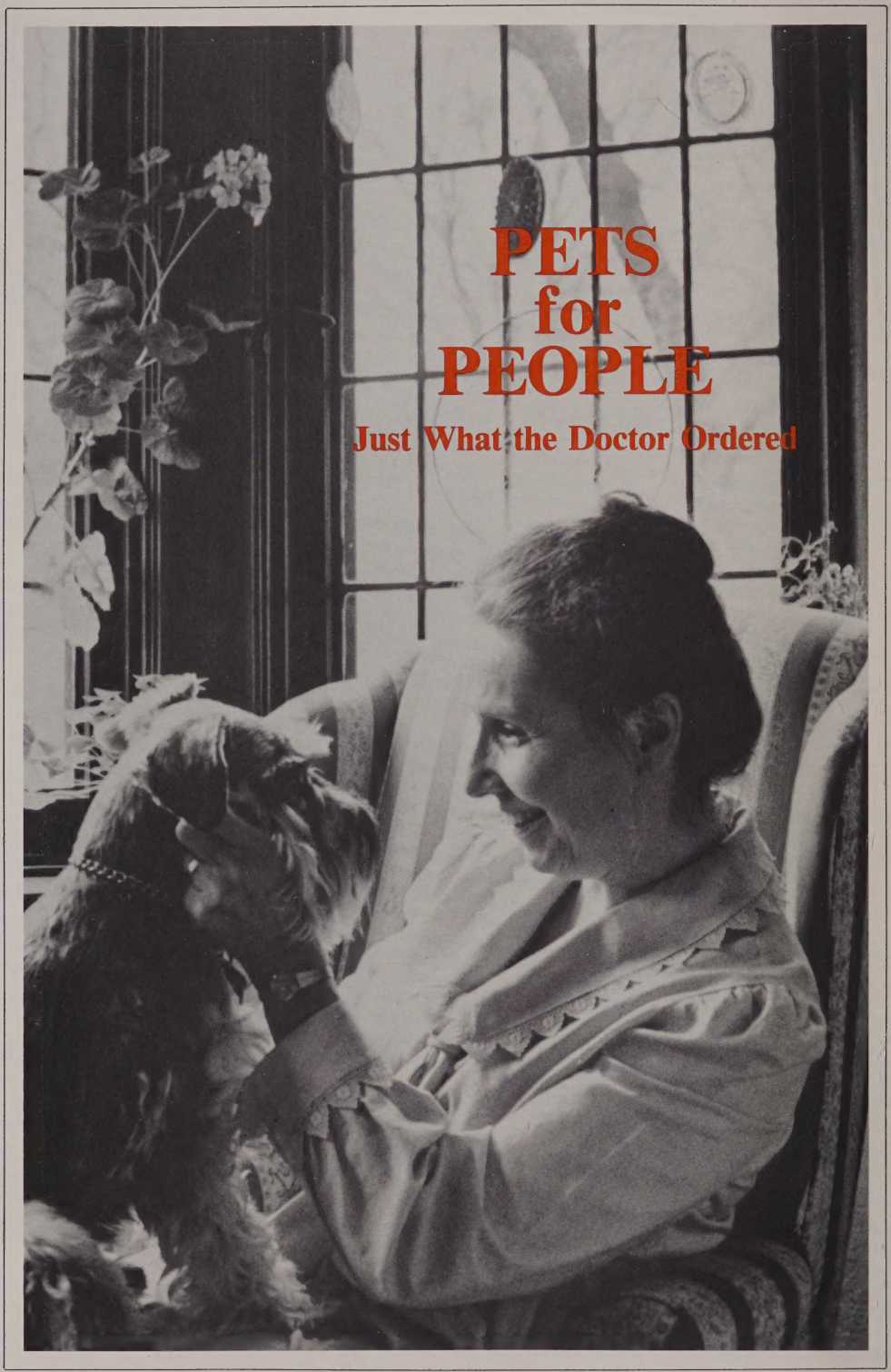
Those who would advocate "doing nothing", which is another way of saying let the starvation continue and most likely increase, can hardly conclude this is a humane approach. Obviously, they have never seen the tragic suffering and agony associated with death by starvation. Never could starvation be considered to be a humane death.

Hunting by gunshot may be argued by some to be far more rapid than starvation and thus a better method of reducing the herd population, especially if destruction of diseased or injured animals is deemed necessary. However, closer consideration of this approach does not in my view support this technique as a viable alternative. The non-selective aspect of hunting is a major negative factor. If the study concludes that some of the deer must be euthanized for management and humane considerations it seems clear that they should be the sick, the weak, the old and the injured, leaving the young, strong and healthy to be the ones with the best chance of survival. This would be closer to the way of natural selection in nature, and hunting clearly does not offer this option because of its non-selective nature. Further, gunshot is only humane when the first bullet causes immediate death. There is an uncomfortable potential margin of error even with a sharpshooter. Thirdly, shooting has a very negative impact on the public as evidenced by the public's moral reactions last year.

It is not my intent to try to second guess the professionals studying the sad plight of the Crane Reservation deer, but rather to suggest that logic and humane concerns mitigate against the two above mentioned approaches. It would be hoped that a combination of the other options may hold the proper and humane answers to vexing questions. To that end, we have offered our own proposal in conjunction with Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine, suggesting humane methods of population control and reduction.



Arthur G. Slade
President


PETS
for
PEOPLE
Just What the Doctor Ordered

Pets can help speed recovery from illness, lower a person's blood pressure, and create an overall improvement in physical and emotional well-being. Unfortunately, the people most likely to benefit from pet ownership are frequently those least able to afford it.

For many senior citizens and others living on fixed incomes, even the initial fees for adopting a dog or cat, and providing medical necessities such as preventive inoculations and spaying or neutering represent expenses that simply cannot be accommodated in an already tightly stretched budget. Now, however, thanks to a new adoption program being introduced at the League, the joys of pet ownership will be within the reach of many more people than ever before.

The Pets for People Program will entitle people over the age of 60 to adopt a pet at no cost, and will also provide free spaying and neutering as well as initial veterinary examination and shots. The program is made possible by the Purina Pets for People Fund, a non-profit organization founded to provide donations for the elderly, blind and deaf, enabling them to adopt companion pets. A collar and leash, food and water dishes, and a supply of Purina brand pet food will also be provided free of charge.

"We are delighted to be able to initiate this Pets for People Program which will enable people who would not ordinarily have been able to adopt a pet to enjoy the benefits of pet ownership, and at the same time provide homes for animals that otherwise might never have been adopted," says Arthur G. Slade, president of the League.

Pets not only provide companionship and love, but they can also foster a sense of independence and new interest in life, particularly for an elderly person who now has a creature depending upon them for nurture and care. The therapeutic and social benefits of human and animal companionship have been officially recognized by the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) at its 1982 annual meeting when the professional organization resolved to devote research support and educational programs to the subject. The League for many years has conducted nursing home visit programs in which League staff members bring puppies and kittens to visit with elderly nursing home residents on a regular basis.

Prospective pet owners will be given orientation to familiarize them with the joys, and responsibilities, of pet ownership. In general, an effort will be made to encourage adoption of adult dogs and cats, which require less training and generally less physical exertion on the part of owners than do younger, more exuberant animals.

Kathy Wright, executive director of the Purina Pets for People Fund, explains that this program was designed "to encourage adoption of homeless animals by responsible individuals and eliminate the initial financial investment that might prove to be a burden for those on limited incomes."

Persons interested in adopting a pet under this program should call or write the Animal Rescue League of Boston, P.O. Box 265, Boston, Mass. 02117 (426-9170) and request a free brochure and application form. Anyone who wishes to make a private donation in support of the program can do so by making a gift to the Animal Rescue League of Boston and specifying that it is intended for the Pets for People Program.

Time is short for the deer at the Crane Reservation

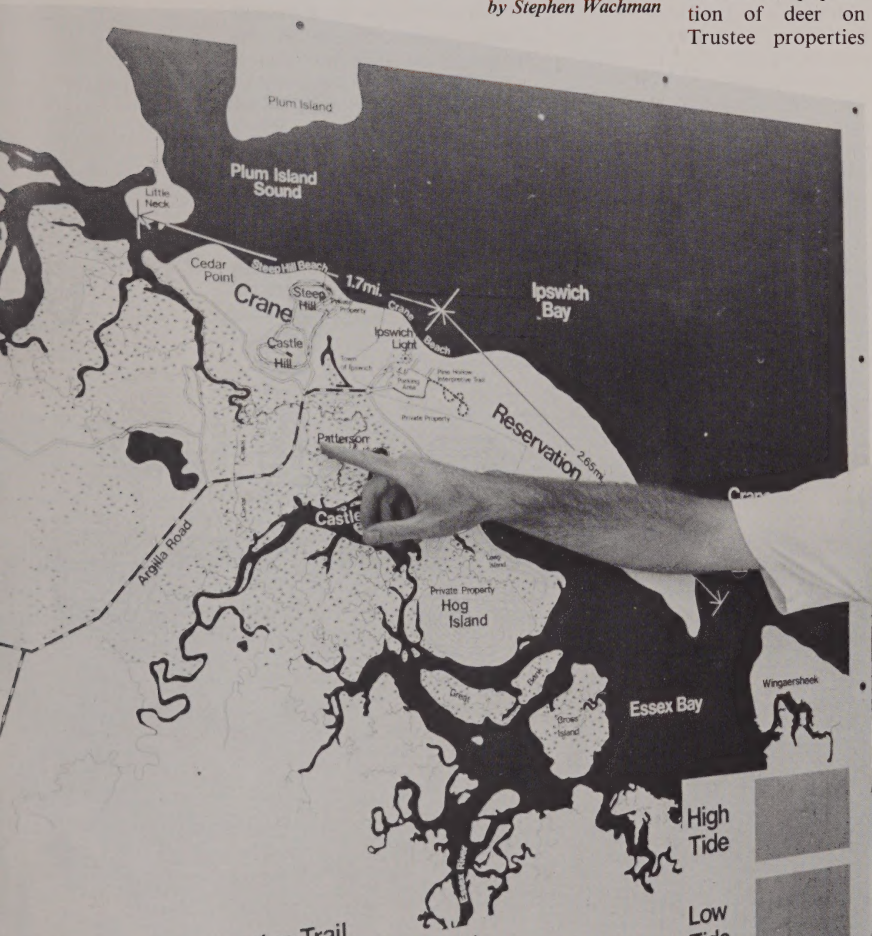
by Stephen Wachman

For more than a year now, The Trustees of Reservations have been searching for the appropriate answers to a complicated series of questions pertaining to the overpopulation of White-tailed deer at their 1400 acre Richard T. Crane Memorial Reservation and 700 acre Cornelius and Mine S. Crane Wildlife Refuge in Ipswich and Essex.

At issue in this perplexing and complex predicament is how to humanely and effectively reduce an overpopulation of deer on Trustee properties in both Ipswich and Essex. Moreover, it is necessary to identify the regional solution to deer management on adjacent residential and town land.

It is evident from surveys conducted last winter, that the estimated wintering population of 200 to 250 White-tailed deer is too large a group to successfully survive on Trustee property. Their continued presence, at these population levels, is detrimental to both the environment and themselves. Habitat destruction in the form of overbrowsing has been occurring on the Crane Reservation and contiguous property. Plantings and natural vegetation are being destroyed. The food crop the deer are being forced to feed on is insufficient to sustain them, and as a result more than 10% died of starvation in 1984.

Compounding the difficulties that the Trustees of Reservations



Pine Hollow Interpretive Trail

To learn more about the history and the natural environment of this remarkable peninsula of shifting sand, follow Pine Hollow Interpretive Trail located nearby. An illustrated trail guide booklet is available for a minimal fee at the beach office. The trail, which leads through a portion of Castle Neck, is approximately one mile in length.

Mike Gormley of The Trustees of Reservations staff explains map boundaries of Crane Reservation.

face, are well-intentioned animal activists that last fall forced them to cancel their plans for a limited hunt designed to reduce the deer population. They contend that disease, predation, starvation and road kills are effective population controls, and that the deer's "semi-tame" behavior are reasons not to hunt the Crane Reservation deer.

Unfortunately, the deer are caught in the middle of this brewing controversy. During the period from February 20 through April 8, 1984, seventeen deer were found dead on the Crane Memorial Reservation. The cause of death, in most instances, was starvation. These deaths were most noticeable in young deer who are not as successful in foraging as the older adult deer.

Last February, sensing an urgent need to resolve this ongoing situation, the Trustees hired Dr. Aaron Moen, Professor of Wildlife Ecology at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, to conduct a detailed study of the White-tailed deer on their properties in Ipswich and Essex. Professor Moen's study, which began last spring, involves an in-depth assessment of the deer population, the condition of their habitat, and the presence of Lyme Disease. The health of the deer, the land destruction, and the public health concerns are central issues in this scientific study. In addition, the Trustees have invited suggestions from advisory groups in order to obtain additional professional assistance, as well as ensuring that relevant social concerns are addressed.

Dr. Moen's analysis, due in October, will be based upon on-site field data generated this past summer as well as other pertinent research and information. His primary objective is to produce a management plan, supported by scientific data, that will enable the Trustees to manage deer and their habitat while ensuring the maintenance of a natural balance.

The range of management options under consideration in his study include:

1. Doing nothing
2. Public Hunting
3. Sharpshooter Hunting
4. Lethal Injection-Dart Gun
5. Capture and Relocation
6. Fencing
7. Feeding
8. Repellants (to protect plantings)
9. Hormone Injection Sterilization
10. Surgical Sterilization

A similar situation occurred on Angel Island, a California State Park, located in the middle of San Francisco Bay. Overcrowding, overbrowsing and starvation were taking place for more than 20 years. In 1976, plans to shoot the resident black-tailed deer met with public protest. The San Francisco Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals was given permission to start a supplemental feeding program, which apparently stopped deaths from malnutrition and the deer returned to natural browse when it became available. In 1981, five years later, 215 members of the herd were successfully relocated off-island, while 44 remained on the island. Currently, during the summer of 1984, implant sterilization of female deer is taking place, in an effort to protect the deer from the overcrowding, overbrowsing and starvation cycle in the future.

While somewhat similar, the Angel Island deer situation has one major difference from that on the Crane Reservation; Angel Island is geographically isolated from the mainland and deer remain on the island. Crane Reservation is only a section of a regional habitat for deer in Ipswich and Essex. The Crane deer are subject to external territorial pressures whereas the Angel Island deer are not.

A matter of growing concern is Lyme Disease, an arthritic-like illness transmitted by ticks to humans. An intermediate host in the tick's adult stage can be the White-tailed deer. This disease, a potential public health threat, has

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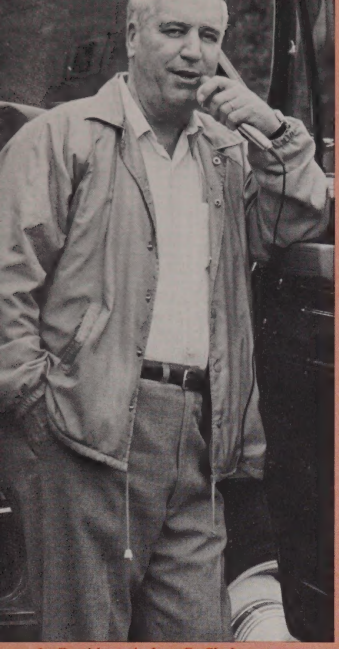


1. President Arthur G. Slade, Master of Ceremonies

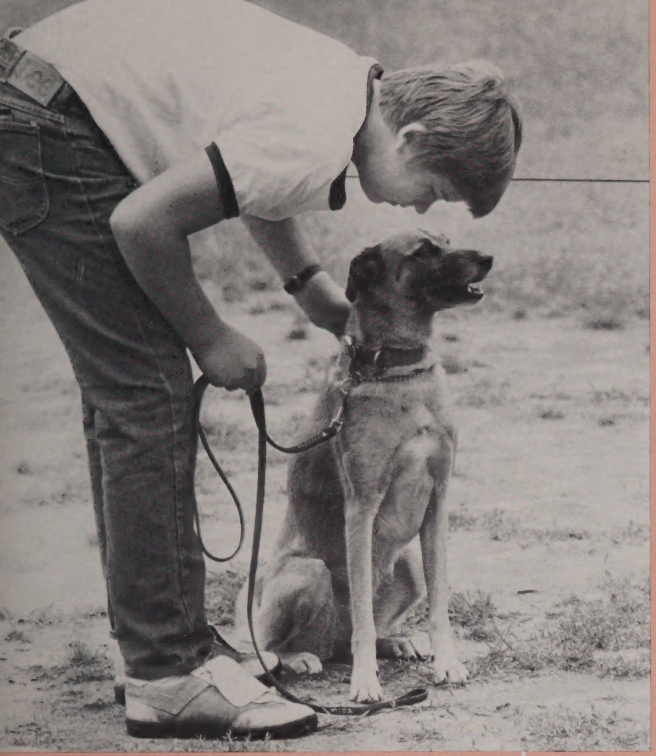
2. The judges choice for Best in Show.

PET SHOW '84

3. Pets on Parade

4. What do you have in the bottle, young man?

5. The worst part of the whole thing is the waiting!



6. Listen to everything I say!

7. Be sure to smile for the judges!

8. Great job!

9. Dog-gone-it, I said sit!

Animals, Friends and Fun

— *a unique summer experience*

By Ed Powers

As another summer sunset fades into darkness, so ends another year at the Animal Friends Summer School. I feel fortunate to have spent my last two summers with the children and counselors, teaching them about kindness and responsibility towards animals and people. Being a friend to animals involves learning how to respect their needs and properly care for them.

We try to accomplish our goals by offering a wide variety of classes that deal with the proper care of pets, wildlife, farm animals, and crafts.

In Pet Care, the campers learn to care for and to understand the world of small pets, such as rabbits, hamsters, gerbils, birds, cat and fish. The campers handle the small pets and are taught proper feeding and grooming, housing and the special needs of each animal. Dog Obedience is a class in which campers bring in their pets for a two-week period and work with them daily in order to better train themselves to communicate to their dogs basic obedience maneuvers and proper voice commands. Both Ocean Ecology and Wildlife classes explore native species and habitats. The children examine local critters close up and get a chance to observe their natural behaviors. These classes teach campers the problems facing these animals and how we can help them.

On Ki-Wun-Ka Farm, children learn about horses and farm life; these classes are always a big hit. The Horse class attracts many campers, and it is the perfect opportunity to show them the importance of proper feeding and regular exercise. They learn various ways to exercise and groom a horse, and how to care for and clean the riding equipment. In the class called Farm Life, campers get a chance to see what life is really like 'down on the farm'. They learn how to clean out a chicken coop and muck-out a stall. They actually groom the cow, sheep and goats. Campers learn to build a wallow, which keeps the pigs cool on a hot summer day. Through these and other chores, the children have good hands-on experiences and, as mentioned, learn what it is like to live on a farm.

The many craft classes available to

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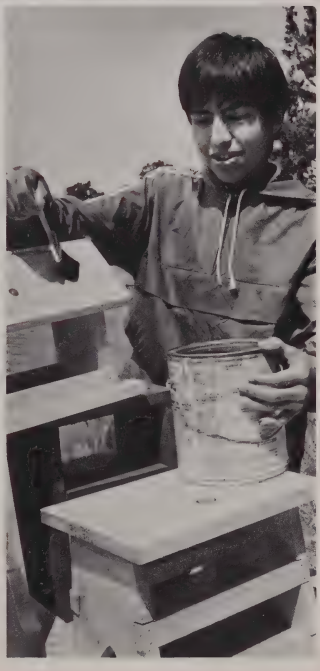


Mr. Powers is an instructor at the Animal Friends Summer School in Cataumet.

(Cont'd from pg. 10)

campers enable them to enhance their creative talents and skills, as well as strengthen their ability to work in groups with others. Pottery, puppetry, basketry, drama, nature photography, wood working, candlemaking and group adventures are all popular choices throughout the summer. The campers can take their projects home at the end of each week, giving them a real sense of pride and accomplishment.

In our well-balanced program, camp does not only consist of class time. We set aside periods for songs, milk breaks, sports, activities and a daily special event. Activity period allows campers to play some of their favorite games, such as dodgeball, line soccer, and red-light, green-light. Special event time is set aside to bring in a community specialist or counselor to provide campers with specific information about a career, hobby or animals. Our special events this year included the Bourne Police and Fire Departments, the Red Cross, Red Acre Hearing Dog Farm, the Falmouth Police K-9 Division, a Veterinarian, and the Animal Rescue League's Animal Ambulance. Counselor programs this year included soccer, cheerleading, horses, rabbits, and farm animals. All are interesting and integral parts of the educational program.

Teaching children to respect and properly care for animals while having an enjoyable time is what camp is all about. It is a time to make new friends, take pride in a new skill, sing and clap to familiar songs, meet new animals close up and leave at the end of the session looking forward to next year. Animals, friends and fun — a great way to spend the summer.

Deer Dilemma

(Cont'd from pg. 7)

been emerging in recent years throughout coastal New England. In a 1984 summer study, conducted by the Harvard University School of Public Health on employees at Crane Reservation, five out of twenty-seven blood samples tested positive for Lyme Disease. The confirmed presence of Lyme Disease demands serious consideration.

The Trustees of Reservations is seeking to find solutions to the deer management problem on their properties, yet the larger regional issue of deer management also needs to be addressed. State and local agencies, private organizations, and the public must effectively and humanely work together to protect the welfare of the deer. The Animal Rescue League of Boston is ready to help, to ensure that the deer are humanely treated.

As part of our commitment to this issue, we are actively participating in the Tufts University Second Annual New England Conference on Animals and Society in early November, at which substantial time will be devoted to the Crane Reservation deer overpopulation issue.

newsfront

ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE OF BOSTON

AHA HOSTS 108th ANNUAL MEETING

"Growth through image enhancement: a time for action" was the theme of the American Humane Association's 108th Annual Meeting and Training Conference, held October 10-13 in Anaheim, California. Featured speakers at the meeting included television actress Betty White, who is author of the book "Pet Love," and Pat Daugherty, state representative from St. Louis, Missouri who discussed humane movement interaction with state legislatures.

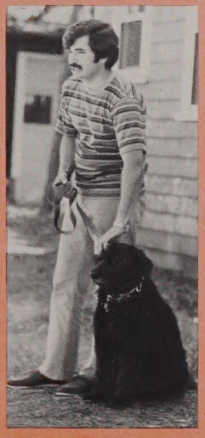
A DAY OF FUN AT LEAGUE'S ANNUAL FAIR

The Animal Rescue League of Boson't Annual Fair is set this year for Thursday, October 25, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at League headquarters, corner of Arlington and Tremont Streets in Boston. All are invited to this fun-filled event to benefit four-footed friends. In addition to a wide selection of gifts and crafts, home-baked cakes, pies and other food treats, there will also be tours of the shelter, animal demonstrations and an auction of selected antiques at 12 noon.

WILDLIFE FUND GAINS FROM STATE TAX OPTION

Massachusetts revenue department officials announced recently that the state income tax refund checkoff designed to raise voluntary contributions to the new Nongame Wildlife Fund has raised $370,000 in contributions from nearly 100,000 taxpayers. The League was active in supporting this innovative effort to fund a coordinated statewide approach to wildlife conservation and environmental control programs.

A LASTING TRIBUTE FOR LEAGUE MASCOT



After thirteen faithful years as the Animal Rescue League of Boston's official mascot, and the loyal friend and companion of owner Richard W. Bryant, executive assistant at the League, "Mr. Bojangles" died in May, 1984. "Bo" was buried at the League's Pine Ridge Cemetery in Dedham, with a stone monument bearing the League's logo erected in his memory.

An abandoned pup originally found wandering the corridors of the State House in Boston, "Mr. Bojangles" went on to become one of the League's best known and loved emissaries of good will, representing the League at countless events and mingling with both two-footed and four-footed celebrities. "Bo" helped other dogs learn obedience in dog training sessions, taught children to love animals in school humane programs, and welcomed visitors as official greeter at the League shelter. He will be missed by all.

newsfront

(Cont'd from pg. 13)

TOP CAT AT COUNTY FAIR

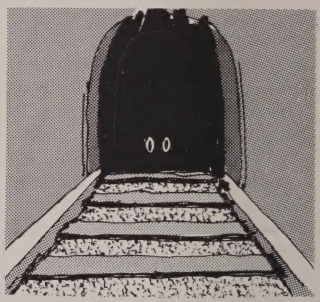
Kim Stauffer of Osterville holds her 10-year old cat "Nicky" who has something to meow about after being selected "Best in Show" at the Barnstable County Fair Pet Show. Judges in the annual summer event were Richard Bryant, executive assistant at the League, and Stephen Wachman, the League's education and information coordinator.

TEACHERS ATTEND "WILD" WORKSHOP

Massachusetts school teachers and humane educators had an opportunity to expand their wildlife knowledge and gain new insights to share with their pupils at a day-long Project Wild Workshop, held September 29 at the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife in Westboro. The program was sponsored by the American Humane Association, the Animal Rescue League of Boston, and the Massachusetts Department of Fish and Wildlife.

REGGIE THE RACCOON RILES RED LINE RIDERS

Commuters on the MBTA's southbound Red Line thought they'd heard everything in the way of train delay excuses until one morning in late summer when trains were halted at Park Street station because a raccoon was wandering down the tracks. After efforts by Animal Rescue League staff members failed to lure it out, the raccoon — dubbed "Reggie" by the *Boston Globe* — eventually disappeared into the tunnel. "It has apparently been living their for a long time," according to an MBTA spokesman.



PETS IN THE PICTURE

Mrs. Mary LaGuardia of Las Vegas, N.M. sends along this photo of "Amanda Blake" and "Zorro" who live in Santa Fe, New Mexico with their owner Tom LaGuardia.

"Thank you for saving my dog's life and making our family one of the happiest ones," write Maria and Wayne Maggio of Winchester, Mass., shown here with "Flash" and "Cassie".

LEAGUE AGENTS ATTEND HORSE ABUSE PROGRAM

League inspection agents Alan Borgal and David Hoffman recently attended the American Humane Association's National Horse Abuse Investigations Training School. Held in early September at the Colorado Trails Ranch and sponsored by the Humane Society of La Plata County, Colorado, the program provides humane agents with comprehensive training in detecting and evaluating horse abuse, in a working ranch setting.

T-SHIRTS AND SWEATSHIRTS

Sweatshirts in navy blue

Children's Sizes: Small(6-8) Medium(10-12) Large(14-16) ***$9.50 each***

Adult Sizes: Small(36) X-Large(44) only, ***$10.50 each***

T-Shirts in beige with brown letters

Children's Sizes: Small(6-8) Large(14-16) only, ***$6.50 each***

Adult Sizes: Small(36) Medium(40) Large(42) X-Large(44) ***$7.50 each***

Please send me:

T-Shirts (children's M not available) (Children's sizes _____) at $6.50 each

(Adult size _____) at $7.50 each

Sweatshirts (adult's M not available) (Children's sizes _____) at $9.50 each

(Adult sizes _____ at $10.50 each

Cost includes postage and packaging

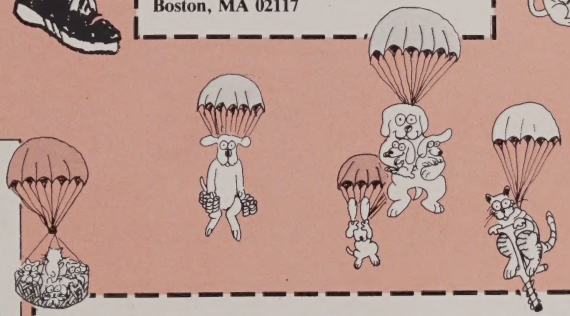
Name _____

Street _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Enclosed is my check in the total amount of _____, made payable to the Animal Rescue League of Boston. Mail to: **Animal Rescue League of Boston, P.O. Box 265, Boston, MA 02117**



New Animal Rescue League of Boston "Cats and Dogs for Adoption" posters are now available to our members and friends for just $2.00 postage paid.

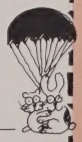
These delightful prints brighten up any wall, while communicating an important message.

To order, simply fill out the form below:

Please send me _____ poster(s) at $2.00 each.

Enclosed is my check for $_____ made payable to the Animal Rescue League of Boston. Mail to:

Pet Adoption Poster
Animal Rescue League of Boston
P.O. Box 265
Boston, MA 02117



Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

#1 Sentiment:
Hope your Christmas is a howling success . . . a chorus of good wishes throughout the New Year

#3 Sentiment:
Wishing you all things bright and beautiful in this holiday season Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

#2 Sentiment:
Season's Greetings

. . . *for holiday greetings and gift-giving*

Share the warmth of the holidays and help your animal friends at the same time by selecting from a line of holiday greeting cards designed especially for members and friends of the Animal Rescue League of Boston. There are three designs to choose from, all printed in red, green and black, with traditional wishes inside. Cards come shrink-wrapped in groups of ten. $5.00 plus $.25 tax and $.75 postage and handling.

GIFT TIES

. . . for the animal lovers on your list, a distinctive dark blue tie with the logo of the Animal Rescue League repeated in white, makes a unique holiday gift. $13.50 plus $1.50 for mailing costs.

To: Animal Rescue League of Boston
P.O. Box 265, Boston, MA 02117

Enclosed is my check in the amount of $_____ for:

Greeting Cards

_____ packages of design #1 @ $6.00 ea.
_____ packages of design #2 @ $6.00 ea.
_____ packages of design #3 @ $6.00 ea.
_____ ties @ $15.00 ea.

Name_____
(please print)

Address_____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Our Foorfooted Friends (US ISSN 0030-6851)
Animal Rescue League of Boston
P.O. Box 265, Boston, Massachusetts 02117